

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01
CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09 DODE-00 DOTE-00
EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-11 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01
INR-10 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 NSF-01 OES-07
OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 /126 W
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O 012215Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1392

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ARA FOR AMBASSADOR VAKY

E.O. 11652:NA
TAGS: PBOR, PLOS, EFIS
SUBJECT: MARITIME BOUNDARY AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 051740

1. CHARGE AND EMBASSY LOS OFFICER SPOKE TO ADMIRAL LUCES,
HEAD OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S FRONTIERS DIVISION, AND
AMBASSADOR ISIDRO MORALES, ALSO OF THAT DIVISION, THE
AFTERNOON OF MARCH 1. LATTER HAD RETURNED FROM THE MARITIME
BOUNDARY NEGOTIATIONS IN CURACAO ON FEBRUARY 28.

2. THEY EXPLAINED THAT AGREEMENT WITH THE NETHERLANDS
ANTILLES WILL BE SIGNED AT THE END OF MARCH AND THAT
VENEZUELAN AND DUTCH GOVERNMENTS HAVE AGREED THAT THE TERMS
OF THE AGREEMENT SHALL REMAIN HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL UNTIL SIGNATURE.
THEREFORE, THEY WERE NOT ABLE TO HAND OVER A COPY EITHER OF THE
TERMS OR OF THE MAP SHOWING THE
COORDINATES. ADMIRAL LUCES, HOWEVER, DID READ A PARAGRAPH
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FROM THE AGREEMENT WHICH STATES CLEARLY THAT THE
DUTCH GOVERNMENT AGREES TO THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUIDISTANCE
WITH RESPECT TO MARITIME BOUNDARIES BETWEEN AVES
ISLAND AND SABA AND ST. EUSTATIUS. WITH RESPECT TO
BOUNDARY DELIMITATION BETWEEN AVES AND GUADELOUPE,
MONTSERRAT AND ST. CHRISTOPHER-NEVIS, VENEZUELAN SAID
THEY HAD NOT REPEAT NOT YET BEGUN TO TALK WITH

THE BRITISH AND FRENCH. THEY NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT BOTH THOSE COUNTRIES RECOGNIZE THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUIDISTANCE WITH RESPECT TO ISLANDS. VENEZUELAN MAINTAINED THERE IS NO DOUBT IN ANYBODY'S MIND THAT AVES ISLAND IS AN ISLAND AND NOT JUST A ROCK.

3. WITH RESPECT TO EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE OF ARUBA, CURACAO AND BONAIRE, CHART SHOWN TO CHARGE AT MEETING SHOWS THAT IT WILL RUN ROUGHLY EQUIDISTANT BETWEEN THE VENEZUELAN COAST AND THREE ISLANDS (ACTUALLY IT IS A LITTLE MORE THAN EQUIDISTANT IN VENEZUELA'S FAVOR REFLECTING, SAID ADMIRAL LUCES, THE WEIGHT OF VENEZUELAN LAND MASS.) LINE THEN HEADS NORTH ALONG 68 DEGREE W. MERIDIAN UP TO ABOUT 12 DEGREES 30 MINUTES N. LATITUDE AND THEN HEADS NW APPROXIMATELY TO 15 DEGREES 30 MINUTES N. LATITUDE APPROXIMATELY DIRECTLY NORTH OF CURACAO (THAT IS 69 DEGREES W. MERIDIAN). LINE THEN HEADS ALMOST DUE WEST UNTIL REACHING 70 DEGREES W. MERIDIAN NORTH OF ARUBA AT ABOUT 15 DEGREES 40 MINUTES N. LATITUDE. THUS, VENEZUELAN CLAIMED THERE IS NO NETHERLANDS ANTILLES CONTACT WITH SOUTHERN LIMIT OF U.S. FISHERY ENFORCEMENT LINE AT ALL. VENEZUELAN EXPLAINED THIS PIE SHAPE WAS A CONCESSION MADE BY THE DUTCH BECAUSE VENEZUELA HAS 1800 KILOMETERS OF COASTLINE AND THE THREE ISLANDS (ARUBA, CURACAO AND BONAIRE) LIE OFF ONLY 150 KILOMETERS OF THAT COASTLINE.

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4. ADMIRAL LUCES AND AMBASSADOR MORALES SAID GOV ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO REACHING AGREEMENT WITH U.S. BEFORE PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT TO VENEZUELA (MARCH 28). THEY SAID THEY WOULD BE MOST PLEASED TO TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS IN GREATER DEPTH AGREEMENT WITH U.S. AND THEIR AGREEMENT WITH THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

CHARGE GOT THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN AGREEMENT WITH NETHERLANDS ANTILLES IN GREATER DETAIL IN THE DEPARTMENT.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: IF DEPT AGREES, PLEASE ADVISE WHEN LUCES AND MORALES CAN TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON.
CROWLEY

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